



574  
September  
2013

# HF Happenings

South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925  
[www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) [www.iaru.org](http://www.iaru.org) [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org)



## Move over Facebook: Amateur radio first social network

**T**he World Wide Web gets all the glory for connecting an average guy on the East Coast with anyone else anywhere on the planet.

Before the Internet, Wifi, smartphones, Yahoo! chat rooms and iPads, a guy on the East Coast — with a radio and an antenna — could experience the "elegant randomness" in stumbling upon someone else in Antarctica, Russia, Africa, Cuba, or anywhere else in the world where there's an antenna and radio.

More than 750,000 people in the United States keep up the tradition and curiosity of amateur radio. Gloucester County's Amateur Radio Club, which draws members from all over South Jersey, are about 100 members strong of the total.

The *South Jersey Times* discovered why "amateurs," an affectionate nickname for licensed radio operators, never let the technology fade away like VCRs and long play records.

"This is John, K2ZA, listening," John Zaruba, a Franklin Township amateur, called out Thursday on his handheld radio from a sidewalk in front of Rowan University's new health center. Within seconds, three men's voices answered back.

Dave in Virginia, Tony who was five miles east of O'Hare airport near Chicago and Paul, a man from Wales who reminded Zaruba of the five-hour time difference across the Atlantic Ocean.

"The reporter's eyes just lit up," Zaruba called back to the men. That was just the reaction he was going for, he told them.

"We use it for just everyday, normal communications that you might have with somebody," said Cory Sickles, a member of the club. "There is an elegant randomness to it, though. You place a general call, a CQ, and somebody will respond to it. They might be in the next town, or the next state, or in Africa."

Sickles called amateur radio the "original social media," the original bridge that closed gaps between amateurs in the United States and Russia during the Cold War, and Americans with Cubans since the embargo.

Usually each amateur has a story - that first pivotal moment that sealed their lifetime interest in the hobby.

For Sickles, of Glassboro, it was his first call out on equipment he built himself - "home brew," they call it. Sickles, called out WA3UVV, his Federal Communications Commission-issued call sign, on the airwaves, and a guy in Texas answered.

Zaruba's first "moment" hit him when he was a kid. On a family friend's equipment, he picked up the microphone, and started talking. On the other end was a man in Antarctica. They talked about the extreme cold and penguins.

"It's like your first kiss. You always remember," Sickles joked. Occasionally amateurs don't work the radio for the thrill of acting as an unofficial worldwide ambassador of the United States.

Have **YOU** done  
anything today to  
Promote  
**Amateur Radio?**

### September

4 - Secretary's Day  
5 and 6 - Rosh Hashanah  
6 - Casual Day  
7 and 8 - IARU Region 1  
SSB Field Day; RSGB SSB  
Field Day  
12 - Closing date for October  
RAE  
14 - Yom Kippur  
20 - Schools close  
20 to 22 - Maloti Makiti,  
Fouriesburg  
21 and 22 - SARL VHF/  
UHF Contest  
22 - Spring Equinox  
23 to 27 - IARU Region 2  
General Conference, Cancun,  
Mexico  
24 - Heritage Day; SARL  
Heritage Day Sprint  
26 to 29 - Hermanus Flower  
Festival  
28 and 29 - CW WW  
RTTY Contest

### October

1 - Schools open  
3 - SARL 80 metre QSO  
Party  
5 - Spring QRP Contest  
5 and 6 - RSGB 21/28  
MHz Contest  
12 and 13 - AWA AM and  
SSB Contest  
16 - Bosses Day  
17 - Radio Amateur Examination  
19 - CQ Hou Koers  
19 and 20 - Jamboree-on-the-Air  
26 and 27 - CQ WW DX  
Phone Contest



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at

[www.sotawatch.org](http://www.sotawatch.org)

And more SOTA information can be found at [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk)



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When phone lines, cellphone and internet service are down, it's the local amateurs' time to shine.

"We don't rely on phone lines or the internet or other things," Sickles said. "I can walk outside with a handheld radio and use that. I don't need a network structure."

The county's club has been called in to support the offices of emergency management during storms and other disasters.

"In large-scale disasters, there are only so many (first responders) to go around," Sickles said, adding that amateurs can pick up communications that aren't necessarily major emergency calls.

Zaruba was one of the amateur radio crew working support communications at shelters in Vineland when the super derecho hit Salem and Cumberland counties. The storm flattened patches of forest and sent trees through houses, displacing residents.

For days, amateurs were the lifeline between shelter staff and Red Cross and emergency management officials.

In the last year, area amateurs have been called out to three major Mother Nature-induced strikes: Hurricane Irene, the super derecho and Superstorm Sandy.

Some of the first reports of Seaside Heights' boardwalk breaking up during Sandy came through from amateur radio operators, Sickles added.

"For us, that's a lot," Zaruba said. "That's a really busy year."

Of the 750,000 amateurs in the country, only about 10 percent participate in community service operations.

"There are so many things you need to keep track of to be in this," Zaruba said. "You need some sort of awareness within the accident command structure."

## YL Activity Week

WARO (Women Amateur Radio Operators) is inviting all YL's to join us in a week of Amateur Radio fun.

This is not a contest, this is a chance for WARO members and YL's from around New Zealand to get together on Amateur radio and help promote Women in Amateur Radio. We will be however asking contacts to be logged as we will give the person with the most YL contacts a certificate at the end of this week.

Dates: Sunday 24 November to Sunday 1 December 2013.

Frequency 80 metres, 3695; 20 metres and 2 m repeaters.

Time: 8 pm to 9 m every night (20:00 to 21:00)

We encourage all WARO members to participate and would like all other YL's to come up on air and have a contact with other ladies.

Amateur radio is much fun so why not come and join us, and have a contact and conversation with some amazing women in and around New Zealand.

## Word to the Wise

**W**hy are the traditional amateur HF bands harmonically related? KB Warner, W1EH, answers the question in the December 1924 issue of *QST*. Page 17 explains, "The Washington Radio Conferences (of the early 1920s), encouraged by the interest of Herbert Hoover, gradually aligned the amateur frequencies to a series of harmonically related bands, so that harmonic interference from the amateur service would fall on other members of the same service ("each service should be charged with the duty of consuming its own harmonic excrescences" Kennelley, pg. 18) or more colloquially "Everybody must eat his own mush."

## Operating Tip

**A**t the end of the contest, when you've gotten the pre-programmed messages set just the way you want, the windows are all arranged properly, and the configuration settings all "just-so", that is the time to save the program configuration. Many programs store the settings and other information in a single file - look for it in the folder from which your logger runs. For example, *N1MM*

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Logger users can save the "N1MM Logger.ini" file. To restore the configuration, copy the saved file into the program directory. No reason not to have several of them!



### African DX

Cote d'Ivoire, TU. Dimitri, F5SWB is active as TU5DF until 20 October. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL to home call.

African Tour (Reminder). Nick, G3RWF, will once again be active as 5X1NH from the University of the Mountains of the Moon (MMU) in Fort Portal, Western Uganda and (occasionally) the capital, Kampala, between 24 September and 16 November. He is expected to join/meet with Alan, G3XAX/5X1XA, later and both operators will travel to Rwanda to be active as 9X0NH between 19 and 29 November. The duo plan to participate in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (23 and 24 November) from Rwanda. QSL 5X1NH and 9X0NH via G3RWF. QSL 5X1XA via G3SWH.

Congo, TN. Arie PA3A, Marian, PD1AEG, Ad, PA8AD, and Angelina, PA8AN, will be part of the 4th DAGOE Mercy Ships Radio DX-Pedition. They will be active as TN2MS from 22 to 27 September from the hospital ship Africa Mercy and from 28 September until 11 October from the port Pointe-Noire. QSL via PA3AWW. <http://www.tn2ms.nl/>

Senegal, 6V. Luc, F5RAV, will be active from N'gor Island (AF-045) during October as 6V7T/p on 40 - 10 m on SSB and PSK. QSL via homecall, direct only. <http://f5rav.free.fr/>

### African Islands

Canary Islands, ED8. Jaime, WP3A, will be active as ED8P from Santa Cruz de Tenerife (AF-004, DIE S-012, WLOTA 1276, EAA TF) during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (26 and 27 October) as a Single-Op/Single-Band (15 m)/Low-Power/Assisted entry. QSL via NP3O.



Pantelleria Island, IH9. Aldo/IK2ANI announces a holiday-style activation of Pantelleria Island (AF-018; IIA TP-001, MIA MI-124, WLOTA 0041, Grid. JM56) for 27 September to 1 October. He will be active as IH9/IK2ANI with 100 W and a vertical antenna on 30 - 6 m on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via IK2ANI (d/B).

Seychelles, S7. Andrea, IZ1MHY, will be active as S79MHY from Praslin Island (AF-024) between 7 and 17 October. Activity will be on 160 - 10 meters. His radio is a Yaesu FT-857 into a multi-band vertical, dipoles for 10/15/20 m and half-wave sloper for 160m. QSL via his home call sign, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

Mauritius 3B8. Darren, G0TSM will be on holiday in Mauritius until 28 September. He hopes to get on the air for 2 or 3 hours a day with the call sign 3B8/G0TSM. He will be running 100 W to simple wire antennas on the 10 to 40 m bands using a 2-element quad on 6 m.

Mayotte Island, FH. The "Italian DXpedition Team" are pleased to announce their next activity will be from Mayotte Island (IOTA AF-027, WLOTA 0376) as TO2TT from 3 to 17 October 2013. HF Pilot station IK7JWY, 6 m Pilot station IKOFTA. Software Management (real-time log on line) by IH9GPI. Further updates to follow.

Reunion Island, FR. Stephane, F5UOW, will once again be active from Reunion Island (AF-016, DIFO FR-001, WLOTA 1812, WWFF FFF-011). He will use FR/F5UOW from 31 October to 21 November but between 3 and 17 November he will be TO2R. Mostly on CW from 40 to 10 m. QSL via F5UOW direct or bureau.

Madagascar, 5R. Eric, F6ICX, will once again be active as 5R8IC between 16 November and 15 December 2013 from Sainte-Marie Island [Nosy Boraha] (AF-090, WLOTA 1099). Holiday style operation, with no online log during activity. Mainly CW, some SSB, RTTY and PSK63. QSL via home call.

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 23 to 30 September 2013

### NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder

01:30 UTC-02:00 UTC 27 September

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA

station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 29 September 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

### NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 September

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 29 September 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

### CQ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest

00:00 UTC 28 September to 24:00 UTC 29 September

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - high, low or QRP; Single Op Single Band - high, low or QRP; Single Op Assisted All Band - high, low or QRP; Single Op Assisted Single Band - high, low or QRP; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: 1500 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: 48 States/Canada: RST, CQ Zone and state or VE area; All Others: RST and CQ Zone

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each US state/VE area once per band; Each DXCC/WAE country once per band; Each CQ zone once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 October 2013

E-mail logs to: [rtty@cqww.com](mailto:rtty@cqww.com)

Web-to-Cabrillo form: [http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwrtty\\_cab.php](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwrtty_cab.php)

Mail logs to: Ed Muns, WOYK, PO Box 1877, Los Gatos, CA 95031-1877, USA

Find rules at: [http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq\\_contests/cq\\_ww\\_rtty\\_dx\\_contest/cq\\_ww\\_rtty\\_dx\\_contest\\_rules/2013\\_cq\\_ww\\_rtty\\_dx\\_contest\\_rules.pdf](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest/cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest_rules/2013_cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest_rules.pdf)

### Texas QSO Party

14:00 UTC 28 September to 02:00 UTC 29 September and 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 29 September

Mode: All

Bands: All, except WARC

Classes: Fixed Single Op Mixed; Fixed QRP Single Op; Fixed Single Op CW; Fixed Single Op Phone; Fixed Multi-Op; TX Mobile Single Op Mixed; TX Mobile Multi-Op; TX Mobile Single Op CW; TX Mobile Single Op Phone

Max power: HP: >5 watts CW/digital, >10 watts phone;

QRP: 5 watts CW/digital, 10 watts phone

Exchange: TX: RS(T) and County; non-TX: RS(T) and state, province, country or MM region

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points per CW/digital QSO; TX Stations: 500 bonus points for each TX mobile worked in 5 different counties; TX Mobiles: 1000 bonus points for each TX county covered with at least 5 QSOs; non-TX Stations: 500 bonus points for each TX mobile worked in 5 different counties and another 500 bonus points for working the same TX mobile in an additional 5 counties

Multipliers: TX Stations: Each TX county, state, province, DXCC country once; non-TX Stations: Each TX county once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

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## Be surprised by the World of Amateur Radio

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Submit logs by: 31 October 2013

E-mail logs to: [no5w.chuck@gmail.com](mailto:no5w.chuck@gmail.com)

Mail logs to: TQP Committee; 24415 Deep Meadow Dr; Tomball, TX 77375, USA

Find rules at: [http://www.txqp.net/index.php?o\\_p\\_tion=com\\_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=53](http://www.txqp.net/index.php?o_p_tion=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=53)



# HF Happenings

[HF\\_Happenings-subscribe@yahooagroups.com](mailto:HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahooagroups.com)

## Next weeks contests

SARL 80 m QSO Party, 17:00 UTC-20:00 UTC 3 October

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC 3 October (CW); 18:00 - 19:00 UTC 3 October (SSB); 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 October (FM); 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 October (Dig)

15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest, 00:00 UTC 5 October to 23:59 UTC 6 October

EU Autumn Sprint, SSB, 16:00 - 19:59 UTC 5 October

UBA ON Contest, SSB, 06:00 - 10:00 UTC 6 October

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 October

## History This Week for the week starting 23 September

1825 - Railroad transportation is born with the first track in England

1851 - The first time train dispatching by telegraph in the U.S. took place

1852 - A new invention, the dirigible, is demonstrated

1879 - Baldwin steam motors tram first tried in Sydney Australia

1879 - Sydney Australia inaugurates steam motor tram route.

1936 - Radio used for first time for a US presidential campaign

1955 - Commercial TV begins in England

1956 - First transatlantic telephone cable goes into operation

1983 - Australia II wins America's Cup yacht race (first non-US winner)

*Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News*